

March 11.

VESSEL OWNERS MAY GET \$75,000

That Is the Sum Alleged to Have Been Illegally Paid to Newfoundland.

Premier Morris Willing to Pay Without Hearing Before a Commission

Under the decision of The Hague Tribunal in the North Atlantic Coast Fisheries arbitration last fall United States fishing vessels were not obliged to pay light and harbor dues, etc., on entering ports on the Newfoundland or Nova Scotia coast. For years United States vessels have been paying these duties, some times under protest and in the course of years the amount so paid has reached a very large sum.

In 1907 many of the firms here presented schedules of what their vessels had so paid out in recent years, as far forth as they had record and the same was forwarded to the state department as claims for money which had been illegally collected and for which they should be recompensed. The Newfoundland government has continued to collect, even during the past herring season, these light and harbor and other dues and thus the amount due Gloucester fishing firms has grown considerably.

It is understood that Premier Morris is willing to attempt the settlement of these claims, that is the harbor and light dues and duties wrongly collected, without having them go before a commission, as will be the method of procedure for claims for consequential damages and that the state department is now engaged in the work of getting the said claims in shape so that the presentation of the same may be made to Premier Morris. A conservative estimate of the amount involved in the light and harbor dues and duties claims is thought to be about \$75,000. Just how much of this can be substantiated and collected is not known, but it is certain that should the Premier and the state department come to an understanding as to a method of settlement the amount which will revert to many vessel owners here will be a very goodly sum.

In this connection it is interesting to note that the matter has already engaged the attention of some of the members of the Newfoundland legislature, for in session a few days ago, Sir Robert Bond, ex-premier, and leader of the opposition asked Premier Morris the following question:

"If the statements made by the Newfoundland correspondent of the Standard of Empire, and which appeared in

that paper under date of February 3, are correct, viz—that \$40,000 damages have been claimed by the United States 'on account of light dues and fines and penalties imposed upon them for breaches of our law;' that 'The Hague Tribunal reduced the claim by one-half;' and that the government has 'decided to settle the remaining claim of \$20,000 by direct negotiations with the United States government' and also 'if the said claim is still being pressed by the United States, and, if so, whether it is the intention of the government to admit a liability, or leave the United States to prove the justice of their claim through the supreme court?'

Premier Morris' Opinion.

In reply Premier Morris said: "The schedule to the pecuniary claims convention, transmitted to the Newfoundland government in 1908 by the United States government amounted to \$37,533.16. The proceedings of The Hague did not specially deal with these claims, except in so far as their findings on the question submitted to them will affect the decision of the court to which these pecuniary claims are to be submitted. The government has not decided to settle any claims by direct negotiations or otherwise. The government had no knowledge of the source whence the statement referred to emanated."

"The subject of the pecuniary claims and the schedule of the claims are at present under discussion by the United States government and His Majesty's government, as well as the government of Newfoundland and it would not be in the interests of the colony to at present make public any minutes of council or correspondence in relation to the same. I hope, however, that during the course of the session the matter will have reached a point when I shall be in a position to make the whole of the correspondence and minutes of council asked for."

"The claim is not being pressed by the United States government, as it has been provided that the matter shall be decided by a competent tribunal. It is not the intention of the government to admit any liability, but to leave it to the United States government to prove their claims before the tribunal, which may be ultimately adopted by the parties."

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Portland Fish Notes

Fish were fairly plentiful Thursday, for the following fares were received: Edmund Black, 7000 and Wesley Sinner, 12,000 for the F. S. Willard Co.; Fanny Reed, 4000; Fannie Hayden, 1000; Lochinvar, 8000; Watauga, 3000 and Gladys, 3000 for the dealers on Commercial wharf. Fish are fairly firm in price.

Just as the robin is a harbinger of spring on land so is the sturgeon a harbinger of spring on the water.

The first sturgeon of the year has been taken off the Maine coast and to Capt. George Nickerson of the sloop Rob Roy belongs the credit of landing this much prized article of sea food. The sturgeon was as handsome a fish as has been brought in here for some time. Capt. Nickerson got him in his nets, but he wasn't quite sure what kind of fish it was. When taken out at J. W. Trefethen's, a number of people recognized the breed. The sturgeon was about four feet long and weighed about 40 pounds.

Schs Edmund Black, Albert D. Willard and Eva and Mildred landed 18,000 pounds of fresh fish at Central wharf for F. S. Willard & Company on Friday. The Willard brought in 5000 pounds, the Black 6000 pounds and the Eva and Mildred 7000 pounds.

The pollock seiners Grace Otis and Pythian harbored here Friday.

Fishing Facts and Fancies.

In Copenhagen there are water-tanks on wheels, and live fish are brought to the doors of people's houses.

During January last there was imported at New York 355,128 pounds of cod, valued at \$21,056; 4,330,896 pounds of herring, valued at \$162,482, and 777,392 pounds of mackerel, valued at \$35,074.

The Canadian Civil Service Commissioners give notice that applications will be received for an assistant in the fisheries branch of the department of Marine and Fisheries at an initial salary of \$1600 per annum. Candidates must be graduates of some recognized university.

Building New Schooners.

The great fish firm of Job Bros., St. John's, N. E., have now building for them on the Clyde a steel three masted schooner of 400 tons, to be employed in the fish export trade between St. John's and South America.

Provincetown Whalers to Fit Out.

Whaling schooners William A. Grozier and Ellen A. Swift will soon be fitted for a cruise to the Atlantic whaling grounds for sperm whales.

Stranded Fishing Schooner Stripped.

Sch. Mattakesett ashore at Peaked Hill bars, was stripped of sails, rigging, etc., first of the week.

SCH. EUGENIA HITS MARKET.

LIGHT FISH SUPPLY AT T WHARF THIS MORNING SOON CLEAN-ED UP.

The supply of fish in the nine vessels at T wharf this morning is not so great but what the dealers can handle it easily and have clean floors for Monday morning. Eight of the market boats brought catches ranging from 500 to 15,000 pounds, sch. Edith Silveira being the lucky possessor of the latter fine amount. The only off-shore there is sch. Eugenia, Capt. John Williams, with 55,000 pounds. The captain has a fine paying trip as new off-shore haddock are bringing \$3.35, and he is getting \$2.60 for old. Shore haddock are quoted at \$4, large cod are worth \$4 to \$5, hake \$4 to \$6.25 and pollock \$4.

Boston Arrivals.

The receipts and prices in detail are: Sch. Pontiac, 11,000 haddock, 500 cod. Sch. Rita A. Viator, 4000 haddock, 500 cod. Sch. Eugenia, 45,000 haddock, 10,000 cod. Sch. Mary E. Cooney, 5000 haddock, 2500 cod. Sch. Ida S. Brooks, 2000 haddock, 5000 cod. Sch. Stranger, 7000 haddock, 100 cod. Sch. Edith Silveira, 14,000 haddock, 1000 cod. Sch. Alice, 7500 haddock, 2400 cod. Sch. Laura Enos, 500 cod. Off-shore haddock, \$2.60 to \$3.35 per cwt.; shore haddock, \$4; large cod, \$4 to \$5; market cod, \$2 to \$5; hake, \$4 to \$6.25; pollock, \$4; cusk, \$2.70.

HALIBUT TAKES A DROP.

Large Amount of the Pacific Catch is Now on the Way to the East.

Bank halibut took a big drop yesterday, the fare of sch. Teazer of this port, which was at Boston with a trip of 16,000 pounds, selling to the New England Fish Company at 10 1-2 cents per pound for white and 8 cents for gray. Last sales for fare lots of bank halibut at this port and also at Boston were 13 1-2 cents for white and 11 cents for gray.

The drop is said to be owing to the fact that a large amount of Pacific halibut is now on the way east. It is said that the Pacific halibut catchers have been doing big of late, and one of the halibut concerns is authority for the statement that no less than 23 cars of Pacific halibut are due at Boston and New York this morning and Monday night.

French Fishermen Work on Shares.

The French fishermen who man the St. Pierre fleet on the Grand banks are engaged for shares in the catch instead of wages, says Consul Jenkins. This includes both the ordinary seamen and the master. The latter, however, is sometimes given a bonus in addition to his share in the catch, but this depends on special agreement with the owner and does not affect the earnings of other members of the crew.

The scale of compensation, according to the shipping agreement now in use in this colony, is computed on the thousand fish, weighing 33 quintals (1 quintal equals 112 pounds), the arbitrary value of which is fixed at 16 francs (\$3.08) the green quintal. When the fish are sold for more than 16 franc, the difference is added, pro rata, to the share of each member of the crew, and when actually disposed of for less than the standard value a corresponding deduction is made. After the cost of bait is deducted, the fishermen are paid on the gross value of their catch.

The skipper of a St. Pierre fishing schooner is entitled to 23.3 cents per quintal, as reckoned above, on the total catch. There are usually two other officers, the "second," who is the mate, and the "maitre," who has charge of the fishing gear, supplies, etc.

While the skipper does not fish, the second and maitre are each in charge of a dory. The second is entitled to \$14.08 per thousand fish taken in his own dory and 96.5 cents per thousand on the catch of the whole crew. The maitre gets \$13.51 per thousand on his dory catch and 42.5 cents per thousand on the total.

The salter, who is not expected to fish, is entitled to \$2.50 per thousand on the total catch and \$1.16 additional

on each barrel of cod oil. The cook is compensated at the rate of \$1.02 per thousand fish, based on the total catch; while the apprentice, if there be one, is entitled to about 92 cents per thousand. The cabin boy gets 67 cents per thousand.

Prospective Cod Catch Already Bought Up.

The coming season promises to be a banner one for the local fishermen of St. Pierre, Miquelon. All the catch of the fleet, which will number about fifty sail has been purchased by Leonie Coste & Co., Moruse Francaise, R. Chuinard and G. Monier, the average price being \$3.85 per quintal dried salt bulk. This is an increase of forty-five cents per quintal over that paid last year, when the catch amounted to about 2,500 quintals per vessel. No price has been settled upon for the catch of the shore fishermen.

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Halibut Fare Sold.

The fare of halibut of sch. Kineo sold to the American Halibut Company at 10 cents per pound for white and 8 cents per pound for gray.

The fares of halibut of schs. Marsala and Benjamin A. Smith sold to the American Halibut Company at 10 cents per pound for white and 8 cents per pound for gray.

Sch. Gladiator Sold.

Capt. Jerome McDonald has sold sch. Gladiator, 112.81 tons gross, 75.24 tons net, built in Essex in 1891, to Capt. T. M. Nicholson of Bucksport. The craft will continue in the fisheries and will be a fine addition to Capt. Nicholson's sturdy fleet.

Fitting for Bank Fishing.

The Bucksport, Me., fishing sch. Elizabeth N., owned by Capt. T. M. Nicholson, is here to fit out for salt trawl bank codfishing. Capt. Donald Marr will command her.

Taking Out Herring in Boston.

The British sch. Coronation, under charter to Gorton-Pew Fisheries Company, has gone to Boston to take out her part cargo of frozen herring.

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Today's Fish Market.

Georges handline salt cod, \$5.55 for large and \$5.00 for medium. Bank halibut, 10c per lb., for white and 8c for gray, with the heads off. Salt cusk, large, \$2.50 per cwt.; medium, \$2. Salt haddock, \$2 per cwt. Salt hake, \$2 per cwt. Salt pollock, \$2 per cwt. Splitting prices for fresh fish: Codfish, large, \$2.50 per cwt.; medium, \$1.80; snappers, 80c. Cusk, large, \$1.75 per cwt.; medium, \$1.30; snappers 50c. Haddock, \$1.30 per cwt.; hake, \$1.30 per cwt.; dressed pollock, \$1.30 per cwt.; round pollock, \$1.20 per cwt.

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DRIVEN ASHORE IN GALE.

Five Nova Scotia Fishing Schooners
Were Badly Damaged.

Five Nova Scotia fishing schooners, lying in Ketch Harbor, narrowly escaped being driven ashore and battered to atoms during the progress of a 50 mile gale which swept over that community Wednesday evening.

The gale set in about midnight, and before the crews of the fleet had time to make the necessary preparations, the storm was upon them, and the five schooners were at the mercy of the raging wind.

All five schooners were anchored in the harbor, having been delayed there owing to a heavy ice jam. Soon after the wind sprang up the ice separated, and as the wind increased in fury the schooners were swept towards the shore. The Bonnie B. piled on a shoal, sustaining considerable damage. She will have to be towed to Halifax to make repairs. The schooners Maggie May, Adelaide, Gladys Alena, and Willetta were damaged about the deck. The loss will be quite heavy to the owners.

While the storm was at its worst, a fisherman, while attempting to make his boat fast, was swept into the harbor by a tremendous sea, and it was only with the greatest difficulty that he was rescued.

MAKING MONEY FAST.

Sch. Pontiac's Crew Have Shared \$350
Since New Year's Day.

Capt. Enos Nickerson and crew of the knockabout sch. Pontiac have been doing one grand hustle since January 1 and in consequence their craft is now leading the market fishing fleet on stock and share. Up to Saturday the craft had stocked, since the new year came in, almost \$11,000 while every one of the 17 men of the crew had taken down \$350 in clear money for his part of the proceeds.

Portland Fish Notes.

The fish arrivals reported Friday: Albert D. Willard 5000, Albert W. Black 6000, and Eva and Mildred 7000, for the F. S. Willard Co.; Lizzie May 10,000, Pantooet 2000 Topsall Girl 5000, and Mary Sennett 3000, for the dealers on Commercial wharf.

On account of the thick snow storm and rough weather outside Friday quite a number of the Gloucester vessels engaged in pollock fishing came in here for shelter. Among them were the gasoline boat Bessie M. Dugan and the schooners Grace Otis, Pythian and Little Fannie, none of them reporting having any fish. The latter schooner, however, landed a catch of over 20,000 pounds a few days ago at Gloucester, and this fact in connection with the big fare landed here last week by the sch. Marion Turner has given new courage to the fishermen, who had become rather downhearted at their poor success thus far this season. The rough weather of the past fortnight has doubtless caused the poor fishing, and better luck will probably follow from this time on.

Maine Solons in Herring Mix-up.

The herring bills had the floor in the Maine House Friday morning from high noon till 1.30 o'clock when the House adjourned till Tuesday morning next with one-third of the hungry members in their seats thoroughly saturated with herring and when they got to the tables late they found fish on the bill of fare.

After an hour's effort to get order out of chaos in the various bills and amendments relative to herring fishing the House evolved just one measure, the bill relating to wharves and fish weirs, the others being postponed indefinitely, four of them.

Good Fishing on the LaPoile Grounds.

During the last two weeks there has been remarkably good fishing on the La Poile grounds on the Newfoundland south coast. There is a fleet of almost 20 bankers in the vicinity which make harbor nightly, after fishing. The weather has been fairly moderate, for some time, but intensely cold. When the bankers get out and succeed in making a "full set," the catch for the day averages from 70 to 90 quintals. Some of the vessels fishing have from 150 to 250 quintals below decks.

Shifted to Sch. Joseph Cromwell.

Capt. Samuel Parsons, who was in command of the fishing sch. Mattakesett, which went ashore at the inner Peaked Hill bar a week ago Sunday and still lies there, has been given command of the sch. Joseph H. Cromwell and will transfer his fishing gear to her and continue market fishing.

Spoke Several Halibut Catchers.

Capt. Nathaniel Greenleaf of sch. Kineo reports speaking schs. Tacoma, Senator and Monitor on the southern part of Grand Bank recently.

BOSTON MARKET HAS BIG FARES.

PLENTY OF FISH FOR THE LENTEN MARKET LANDED THERE TODAY.

There is no danger of the T wharf dealers running shy of fish for a day or so at least, because this morning, no less than 11 big off-shore fares, and 15 market boat trips started them in the face when the bell rang. Besides all this they had a good bunch of new goods over the road and were also expecting more arrivals at the fish pair before sundown. The boats won't get a chance to fish today, but there will be fish enough to go over Tuesday all right.

Sch. Onato, Capt. J. Henry Larkin, has the banner fare, 100,000 pounds, three quarters haddock and the rest cod. The steam trawler Foam was up against a snag this time and brought in only 38,000 pounds. Sch. Romance has 83,000 pounds and 48,000 pounds are codfish. Sch. Lizzie M. Stanley has 27,000 pound fare and sch. Cynthia, with 85,000 pounds, has 25,000 cod in her lot. The other off-shore have from 9000 to 19,000 pounds of cod in trips running from 40,000 to 78,000 pounds.

Sch. Georgia and Evelyn M. Thompson, which belong in the market boat fleet, went to Georges this time and struck it all right by so doing, the former having 56,000 and the latter 55,000 pounds.

The market boats are not over burdened with fish, although some as usual, found what they went after. Sch. Gladys and Nellie and Buema have good hake and cusk catches and sch. Priscilla scooped up 14,000 pounds of cod. Schs. Emily Sears and Rose Standish were also among those who struck the hake and cusk spot for a good set.

Prices are good considering the amount of fish in. Off-shore haddock brought \$2 and \$2.05, shore stock going at \$4 and \$4.25. Large cod sold at \$3.50 and \$4.25 and hake kept up in good shape, bringing from \$4 to \$6.

Last week, which in the fish market ends on Friday, was not as good for the business as the corresponding week of last year. Last week there were 90 fishing vessels at T wharf and their total catch was 2,296,400 pounds, while in the same week of last year there were 138 vessels at T wharf with 3,112,500 pounds. Last week there were received from outside 397 barrels and 787 boxes, and in the same week of last year there were received 607 barrels and 751 boxes. During the past week the fishermen in the Provinces sent here 4826 boxes of smelts, and in the same week of last year 3084 boxes were received. From the same source last week there were four boxes of salmon.

Boston Arrivals.

The receipts and prices in detail are:

Sch. Emily Sears, 5000 haddock, 500 cod, 7000 hake.
Sch. Rose Standish, 4000 haddock, 1800 cod, 2000 hake, 7000 cusk.
Sch. Nokomis 9000 haddock, 1100 cod.
Sch. Mary Emerson, 800 cod.
Sch. N. A. Rowe, 800 cod.
Sch. Mabelle Leavitt, 1600 cod.
Sch. Lillian, 8000 cod.
Sch. Priscilla, 2000 haddock, 14,000 cod.
Sch. Georgianna, 2700 cod.
Sch. Evelyn M. Thompson 30,000 haddock, 25,000 cod.
Sch. Georgia, 40,000 haddock, 16,000 cod.
Sch. Cynthia, 60,000 haddock, 25,000 cod.
Steamer Foam, 29,000 haddock, 9000 cod.
Sch. Onato, 75,000 haddock, 25,000 cod.
Sch. Romance, 35,000 haddock, 48,000 cod.
Sch. Harmony, 40,000 haddock, 10,000 cod, 2000 hake.
Sch. Lizzie M. Stanley, 55,000 haddock, 27,000 cod.
Sch. Vanessa, 55,000 haddock, 14,000 cod.
Sch. Mocanam, 60,000 haddock, 18,000 cod.
Sch. Robert and Arthur, 28,000 haddock, 12,000 cod.
Sch. George H. Lube, 11,000 haddock, 700 cod.
Sch. Elva L. Spurling, 5000 haddock, 1000 cod, 4000 hake.
Sch. Gladys and Nellie, 2000 haddock, 1000 cod, 9000 hake, 9000 cusk.
Sch. Buema, 2000 haddock, 1500 cod, 5000 hake, 4000 cusk.
Sch. Walter P. Goulart, 1000 haddock, 1000 cod, 500 hake.
Sch. Flora J. Sears, 4200 haddock, 300 cod.

Off-shore haddock, \$2 to \$3.05 per wt.; shore haddock, \$4 to \$4.25; large cod, \$3.50 to \$4.25; markets, \$2.50 to \$3; hake, \$4 to \$6; cusk, \$2.50.

PLENTY OF FISH HERE TODAY.

MANY FARES IN AND ALL SHOWING UP WELL IN THEIR LANDINGS.

Once more we start the week with good fish receipts. Since Saturday afternoon two of the off-shore haddockers, one of the Georges handliners, a fresh halibuter and seven of the shore steam netters, four of the latter making two trips, have arrived and most of the fares are profitable ones.

Sch. Effie M. Prior, Capt. Asa Baker, came in Sunday morning from Georges haddocking, with a fine catch of 85,000 pounds of fresh fish, 35,000 pounds of which are cod. This is Capt. Baker's initial trip in the Prior and he has started in a manner which speaks well for his ability.

Last night sch. Benjamin A. Smith, the big auxiliary knockabout in command of Capt. George Hodsdon, arrived from Brown's bank with another good catch, 65,000 or 70,000 pounds of fresh fish and 2000 pounds of halibut.

The fresh halibuter Kineo, Capt. Nat Greenleaf, also made port last night after a driving passage from Grand bank, with 12,000 pounds of halibut which he and his crew had fairly stolen from a series of heavy gales which tried to shut them off from all fishing.

This morning the Georges handliner Marsala, Capt. Jack Burton came in with her flag at half mast, one of her crew, Anthony Walker, having died of pneumonia on the voyage. The craft had 15,000 weight of salt cod and 3000 pounds of halibut.

On Saturday four of the little steam netters were out and instead of getting pollock as usual, they struck a regular school of haddock and some of them hit big fares. Sunday seven of them were out and again some of them struck fine fishing while others did not do so well. They made a big record for the two days, however, for their total catch was 65,000 pounds, all of which was shipped to Boston to be marketed this morning.

Today's Arrivals and Receipts.

The arrivals and receipts in detail are:

Sch. Kineo, Grand Bank, 12,000 lbs. halibut, 2000 lbs. fresh cod, 3000 lbs. salt cod.
Sch. Benjamin A. Smith, Brown's bank, 70,000 lbs. fresh fish, 2000 lbs. halibut.
Sch. Effie M. Prior, Georges bank, 85,000 lbs. fresh fish.
Sch. Marsala, Georges Bank, handlining, 15,000 lbs. salt cod, 3000 lbs. halibut.
Steamer Mindora, shore, (Saturday), 14,000 lbs. fresh fish; (Sunday), 2000 lbs. fresh fish.
Steamer Weazel, shore, (Saturday), 7000 lbs. fresh fish; (Sunday), 1200 lbs. fresh fish.
Steamer Prince Olaf, shore, (Saturday), 8500 lbs. fresh fish; (Sunday), 1800 lbs. fresh fish.
Steamer Hope, shore, (Saturday), 1000 lbs. fresh fish; (Sunday), 2000 lbs. fresh fish.
Steamer Eagle, shore, 4000 lbs. fresh fish.
Steamer Nomad, shore, 11,000 lbs. fresh fish.
Steamer Quoddy, shore, 10,000 lbs. fresh fish.
Sch. Clara G. Silva, shore.
Sch. Grace Otis, pollock setling.
Sch. Rita A. Viator, shore.
Sch. Annie and Jennie, shore.
Sch. Mary E. Cooney, shore.
Sch. Emily Cooney, shore.
Sch. Hockomock, shore.
Sch. Marriet, shore.
Sch. Matthew S. Greer, shore.
Sch. Rebecca, shore.
Sch. Edith Silveira, shore.
Sch. Leo, shore.
Sch. Manomet, shore.
Sch. Stranger, shore.

Vessels Sailed.

Sch. Ethel B. Penney, haddocking.
Sch. Walter P. Goulart, Boston.
Sch. Clara G. Silva, haddocking.
Sch. Flora J. Sears, Boston.
Sch. Aspinet, haddocking.
Sch. Gladys and Nellie, haddocking.
Sch. Rose Standish, Boston.
Sch. Emily Sears, Boston.
Br. sch. Coronation, Boston. in tow of tug Mariner.